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LD3009130888 [Editorial Report]

Israel, Egypt on Tabah Arbitration

Commenting on the arbitration committee's decision to uphold Egypt's view of the location of Border Marker 91 in the Tabah area, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir pointed out that the arbitrators were not required to delineate the actual borderline and he said this must be discussed with the Egyptians through negotiations.

Speaking to Jerusalem radio, Shamir added that the Tabah episode is a lesson that Israel should not be interested in any international arbitration, whether on territorial matters or on anything else. He likewise told Jerusalem television that international arbitration is "always detrimental to Israel's interests." The prime minister criticized the Alignment during the television interview, claiming that the Alignment acted "hand in hand with the Egyptians" against the Likud on the Tabah issue.

Among other Israeli reaction, Jerusalem radio carried Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remark that the arbitration ruling still leaves "room for maneuver" over the section of the border from Marker 91 to the beach and over arrangements for the hotel and resort village. The director general of Shamir's office told IDF radio that negotiations will have to be held on the future status of the hotel and resort village, but he acknowledged that "in all likelihood they will go over to Egyptian sovereignty."

Jerusalem radio subsequently disclosed that Israel and Egypt will begin talks after the Israeli elections in November on demarcating the border in Tabah and on future arrangements for the holiday facilities there.

For Egypt's part, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid welcomed the arbitration decision as a "positive step," adding that the prompt implementation of the verdict with goodwill will have ramifications "exceeding the scope of the mere dispute itself" and will promote opportunities for peace in the region, according to MENA.

Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said the verdict confirms Egypt's historical and legal right to the Tabah area and is a consolidation of the peace process, the agency reported. While noting that the task of assessing the value of the facilities in Tabah will be entrusted to a joint committee, he predicted that there may be "certain difficulties" over the assessment.

Israel: Territories Violence

Two Arabs were killed and four injured in clashes with IDF soldiers and Jewish settlers in Hebron 30 September, Jerusalem radio reported. The violence began when Arab youths threw stones at a vehicle containing settler leader Rabbi Levinger.

The radio also reported that IDF soldiers fired at rioters in the Gaza Strip the previous day, noting that the clashes erupted during the funeral procession of former Gaza mayor Rashad al-Shawwa.

Lebanon

A "national conference" in West Beirut rejected "partionist and divisive schemes," called for the holding of the presidential election at an early date and reaffirmed the need for reforms, including the abolition of political sectarianism. The conference statement, which was broadcast by Beirut radio, also urged foreign governments to help put an end to the "plot" against "legitimacy" in Lebanon.

The meeting was chaired by former president Sulayman Franjiyah and those attending included members of the Salim al-Huss government and 21 parliamentary deputies, the radio noted.

In a related statement carried by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, PSP leader Walid Junblatt warned that the Christian "statelet" in East Beirut will not be satisfied with its current borders and will attempt to expand into Muslim areas.

On the USSR's position, Voice of Lebanon radio broadcast the Soviet ambassador's remark that the USSR has "no stand with regard to the two governments" as the issue only concerns the Lebanese.

Iran: Foreign Relations

Two Kuwaiti diplomats arrived in Tehran 29 September to reopen the Kuwaiti Embassy, TANJUG reported, noting the view of Arab diplomatic sources that this is an attempt by Kuwait to reestablish a "balance" in its relations with Iran and Iraq.

In New York, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told Radio Monte Carlo that he welcomes Kuwait's decision to send the diplomats to Tehran and to resume "normal relations" with Iran.

In a separate development, the Foreign Ministry revealed that Iran will shortly resume relations with the Republic of Cyprus, IRNA noted.

Afghanistan

The documents signed in Geneva will "lose their meaning" if the situation continues in which "one of the sides meets its commitments while the other side overtly ignores and violates them," Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told his Pakistani counterpart in remarks reported by TASS. Shevardnadze also stressed that the development of bilateral cooperation between the USSR and Pakistan is conditional on the creation of an "overall positive atmosphere" in relations between the two countries.

A subsequent TASS report listed further examples of alleged Pakistani violations of the Gevena Accords and noted that the Soviet Union has expressed dissatisfaction with the activities of the UN control mechanism in investigating them.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan acknowledged that his talks with Shevardnadze in New York were "frank," but noted that he assured the Soviet side of Pakistan's intention to faithfully implement the Geneva Accords, Islamabad radio reported. A Pakistani Foreign Office official cited by the radio contended that Pakistan's record in implementing the accords is "impeccable."

Afghan resistance sources in Pakistan announced that the mujahidin shot down an Afghan Army transport helicopter near Gardeyz last week, killing around 30 people, according to AFP. The wife and sons of Paktia's military governor were among the dead.

Pakistan

The Supreme Court ruled against an attempt by the National Assembly speaker to reconvene the dissolved parliament on 2 October, according to Islamabad radio. The "operation" of the recent Lahore High Court ruling on the unconstitutional dissolution of the National Assembly is "suspended," the Supreme Court stated, and the Assembly speaker is "restrained" from any attempt to convene parliament.

An earlier AFP report noted that supporters of former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's Muslim League were strongly backing the attempt to reconvene the National Assembly.

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi welcomed the proposal for negotiations with the SPLA in Kampala, stressing that recent SPLA attacks in Equatoria do not constitute any danger and will not hinder the peace process, SUNA reported.

The fall of Keyala to the SPLA was acknowledged in a 28 September Sudanese Army communique carried by Omdurman radio. Government forces evacuated Keyala and moved to Torit after rebel shelling inflicted "heavy losses" on troops and civilians in the town, the communique said. It claimed that some 5,000 rebel forces had massed around Keyala.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Foreign Ministers Approve Kuwaiti Plan

LD3009090288 Kuwait KUNA in English 0819 GMT 30 Sep 88

[Text] United Nations, Sept 30 (KUNA)—The Islamic foreign ministers unanimously approved a communique Thursday night lending strong support to Kuwait's proposal on north-south cooperation and a new Afghanistan resolution.

A communique was to have been issued Thursday, but was delayed for technical reasons and is expected to be published later Friday.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, was present at the meeting, which was presided over by Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri as chairman of the 46-member Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

H.H. the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, proposed Wednesday in the General Assembly a plan of action to relieve the widening gap between rich and poor countries.

Speaking as the head of a creditor nation, Shaykh Jabir said our nations should consider writing off interest on their loans to debtor countries and possibly forego some payments of principal to the poorest nations.

The plan also urges the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to reconsider their "stringent conditions" affecting countries seeking help from these two institutions.

Furthermore, the Kuwaiti head of state asked for an expansion and regulation of scientific and technical assistance from richer to poorer countries.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Experts Meeting Postponed to November

LD2909111488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1018 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 29 (KUNA)—The meeting of experts of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) set for October 10 in Vienna has been put off for November, official oil sources said Thursday.

The sources said the organisation's secretary general Dr. Subroto Thursday officially informed the 13 OPEC members of postponement of the meeting of the experts to an unspecified date in November.

The outcome of the anticipated meeting of two OPEC committees, namely the Prices Committee and the Longterm Strategy Committee, is among the reasons for deferment of the experts meeting, the sources told KUNA.

The sources predicted, however, that the Experts Committee will convene its deferred meeting just prior to the bi-annual meeting of OPEC Ministerial Council scheduled for Vienna on November 21.

The Experts Committee was to discuss, among other things, the definition of oil condensors and price differences in oils produced by OPEC members or what is known as the price structure.

The 5-member Prices Committee grouping the oil ministers of Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Algeria and Indonesia, which met in Madrid last Monday, has called for a joint meeting with the Longterm Strategy Committee of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Venezuela, Algeria, Iran and Iraq to discuss current developments in the international oil market.

The Joint Prices Committee-Strategy Committee has yet to be agreed upon.

Briefs

Indonesia To Import Iranian Crude

Tehran, 27 Sept. 88 (OPECNA)—Indonesia will import crude worth 150 million dollars from fellow OPEC member Iran under an agreement signed here Monday at the end of the visit by Junior Indonesian Trade Minister Dr Soedradjad Djiwandono. Iran, on the other hand, agreed to purchase Indonesian products, including paper, chemical fertilizers, rubber goods, tin and tea. The minister, who arrived here last week, was heading a trade delegation comprising government officials and representatives of Indonesia's private business. In a departure statement, he said that the agreement would boost bilateral trade and technical cooperation between the two OPEC countries. He expressed hope that major steps would be taken for further improvement in bilateral relations. [Excerpt] [*LD2909023988 Vienna OPECNA in English 1043 GMT 27 Sep 88 LD*]

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Comments on Tabah Ruling

NC2909193588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1827 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Excerpts] United Nations, 29 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has declared that today's arbitration ruling on Tabah, which confirmed that this precious part of the homeland is Egyptian, with full Egyptian sovereignty, is a positive step that draws its significance from the two parties' acceptance of the rule of law in principle.

In statements to Egyptian and Arab reporters in New York after learning of the arbitration tribunal's verdict, the foreign minister said:

"We are confident that the prompt implementation of the arbitration tribunal's verdict with goodwill will have results and indications exceeding the scope of the mere dispute itself and will promote opportunities to attain a just and peaceful settlement in the region. It will also create an appropriate political climate to strengthen the opportunities for peaceful coexistence among the region's peoples." [passage omitted]

Dr 'Abd al-Majid expressed his confidence in the future and stressed his eagerness to implement the ruling with goodwill. He emphasized that goodwill is necessary and expressed hope that the implementation would be in accordance with the provisions of international arbitration, noting that both sides have committed themselves of their own free will.

The foreign minister noted that throughout the negotiations over Tabah the Egyptian side had insisted on Egypt's full sovereignty over Tabah and the sanctity of its international borders, whether before the arbitration panel or during the several attempts to arrive at a settlement outside the framework of arbitration.

He said that Egypt had welcomed the American mediation, and when it failed the matter was left to the tribunal, which announced its verdict today.

'Abd al-Majid concluded that he had called President Mubarak and informed him of the Tabah ruling. He said the president expressed his pleasure at the ruling in Egypt's favor.

Meets Peres, Discusses Tabah

NC2909214188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Excerpt] United Nations, 29 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met in New York this evening with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

MENA has learned that they discussed recent developments in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Middle East crisis in general. The talks between Dr 'Abd al-Majid and Peres also dealt with measures to be taken following the international arbitration tribunal's verdict issued in Geneva today confirming Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah.

Following the meeting Peres was asked whether his government will embark on implementing the verdict. He replied that he could not answer before returning to Israel. [passage omitted]

Ghali on Tabah Ruling, Relations With Israel

NC2909165988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1554 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has commented on the International Arbitration Tribunal verdict today reinstating Egypt's sovereignty over Tabah. He said that we are pleased because it confirms Egypt's historical and legal right to this dear part of our soil.

Dr Ghali added: In this regard, I would like to reiterate our objective outlook on that verdict. This outlook regards it not as a victory for one party and a defeat for the other, but as a consolidation of the peace process and the priniciple of the peaceful settlement of disputes. This verdict also is regarded as a recognition of the sanctity and inviolability of international law.

Dr Ghali stressed that Egypt believes in the importance of respecting the principles and provisions of international law, builds its policy on a full commitment to international legitimacy, and adheres to the rulings of legal settlements. Egypt is, therefore, certain that Israel will adopt the same line and follow the same course.

He said that Egypt hopes that the settlement of the Tabah dispute will mark the beginning of a new stage in Egyptian-Israeli realtions, in which Egypt will make up for missed opportunities and overcome obstacles so that peace may prevail and the Palestinian right to self-determination may be established.

Asked about his expectations, now that Egypt's sovereignty over Tabah has been reestablished, Dr Ghali said, in an exclusive statement to MENA, that both parties are committed to implementing the tribunal's verdict.

He expressed his expectation that the Israeli side will adhere to the ruling. However, he noted that the assessment of the value of the hotel which stands in the area will involve certain difficulties.

Dr Ghali disclosed that a joint committee will be entrusted with the task of assessing the value of installations in the region, noting that this will eventually help to improve relations between Egypt and Israel. However, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs pointed

out that these relations will become excellent only when the Palestinians have gained their legitimate rights. He added that this is the only obstacle hindering an improvement in Egyptian-Israeli relations.

Dr Ghali extended his thanks to the jurists and legal experts who have contributed to today's verdict which confirmed Egypt's right to Tabah.

Mubarak Wants Palestinian State Postponed

LD2809143988 Hamburg DPA in German 1344 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Bonn (DPA)—In Bonn today Egyptian President Husni Mubarak called for the Palestinians and their leaders to forego the formation of a government-in-exile and the declaration of an independent state for the time being.

After 2 hours of talks with Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mubarak told journalists that the Palestinians initially should agree on a concept for their future political course.

"I say today for the first time in all clarity that a clear move on this problem at this moment would not be advisable nor useful for the Palestinians in view of forthcoming elections in Israel and the United States," the president said. "It would be more far-sighted to wait for the results of these elections."

Mubarak said that the Palestinians should examine the formation of a government-in-exile and the declaration of an independent state "with the necessary care and sensibility" in order to act after these elections. "For if they do that beforehand, it could be counterproductive for them, considering the election campaigns taking place at the moment." [passage omitted]

SPLA Rebels Continue Attack on Juba

EA2909165288 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] [Word indistinct] enemy garrison north of Juba airport is reported to be under constant attack from SPLA forces of Malek task force, under the command of Alternate Commander Dominic Deng and Shambe task force, under the command of Alternate Commander Daniel Deng Mony Dit, have launched sporadic attacks on enemy positions at the PDU [Project Development Unit] buildings and at the western end of the airport in Juba.

During the course of the fighting, a large plane took the risk of landing at the airport amid serious gunfire last Sunday, 25 September 1988. In this regard, the overall commander of Infijar [explosion], Commander Kuol Manyang Juk, has again warned all aircraft, military or civilian, domestic or foreign, to keep out of Juba airport.

Defense Minister on Ugandan Mediation, Garang

JN2909160288 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Sep (SUNA)—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has asserted that Colonel John Garang has informed him of his desire to hold peace talks with the Sudanese Government without any preconditions.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-SUDANI published here today, Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Khalil, retired, explained that the Sudanese Government is serious about the question of peace.

He also said that during his last visit to the country, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni was authorized by the Sudanese Government to carry out a mediation between the government and Garang's movement.

He pointed out that Sudan appreciates the Ugandan initiatives and provides them with the opportunities to crown its efforts with success.

It is worth mentioning that the Sudanese Government has sent to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who is currently visiting the PDRY, the message sent by the Ugandan president via the Sudanese Embassy in Uganda.

Al-Mahdi Statement on Negotiations with Rebels

LD2909224988 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 29 (SUNA)—Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has welcomed negotiations with Sudan People's Liberation Movement of Col-John Garang, confirming that the southern question can only be (?solved) via dialogue.

Al-Mahdi, in a press statement released here today, said that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, in his recent visit to Sudan, had proposed holding the negotiations in the Ugandan capital—Kampala.

The recent attacks of the rebel forces in the Equatoria do not constitute any danger and it will not hinder peace process Al-Mahdi added.

A press report broadcast in Kampala yesterday by Museveni confirmed that the rebel forces expressed readiness to hold talks with the Sudanese Government at any time.

Al-Mahdi Makes Official Visit to PDRY

Meets YSP Secretary General

JN2909153888 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1417 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Aden, 29 Sep (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi yesterday met with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and means to improve them in the service of the two peoples.

They also discussed current Arab and Islamic issues of mutual concern, foremost of which is the security of the Red Sea and its safety from any dangers that may threaten the region.

Al-Mahdi expressed to Salim al-Bid his appreciation for the cordial welcome accorded to him in his second country, the PDRY. He presented his congratulations on the PDRY's celebrations of its glorious revolution anniversary, which falls on 14 October.

On his part, Al-Bid expressed his appreciation for and admiration of the Sudanese people. He said that he was taught by Sudanese teachers. He asserted his country's support for Sudan in its attempts to overcome the consequences of the rains and flood disaster that occurred there recently. [passage omitted]

Returns, Makes Statement

JN2909165288 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Sep (SUNA)—Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, has praised the results of the talks that were held between the Sudanese side under Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the PDRY side under him.

He said that Al-Mahdi's visit to his country has produced satisfactory results on the level of bilateral relations and joint cooperation on the pan-Arab, Islamic, and international level. He added that this will enable the two fraternal countries to establish cooperation between them on sound bases and on the historical relations which bind the two fraternal people.

Meanwhile, in press statements on his return to Khartoum at noon today, Al-Mahdi said that his visits to Sanaa and Aden have achieved their aspired objectives in service of the Sudanese people and the fraternal Yemeni people. He said that his talks in the PDRY resulted in the conclusion of economic, trade, educational, and cultural agreements.

Al-Mahdi added that his visits to the two parts of Yemen are within the framework of Sudan's foreign policy seeking to bolster relations with neighboring countries.

He said that the two parts of Yemen constitute a dynamic Arab force as they are currently witnessing an extensive agricultural, economic, and oil development process.

Al-Mahdi said that the PDRY agreed to supply Sudan with gas and asphalt and Sudan will provide it with some agricultural products. He said that Foreign Minister Dr Hasan abu Salih will chair a Sudanese ministerial committee to follow up what was agreed with the brothers in the two parts of Yemen.

On the other hand, Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Abu Salih said that it has been decided to open a temporary office in Aden that will carry out the tasks of an embassy until Sudan's conditions improve.

Al-Mahdi returned to Khartoum at noon today at the end of a visit to the two parts of Yemen which lasted 5 days.

Communique Issued on Visit

LD2909225888 Khartoum SUNA in English 1722 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 29 (SUNA)—The Sudanese and South Yemeni sides concluded today their official talks which started last Tuesday and issued a joint communique.

The communique was signed by Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and South Yemeni President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas.

The two countries expressed satisfactory over the level of bilateral relations and confirmed the importance of developing cooperation in all spheres.

The communique hailed Sudanese Government and expressed solidarity with Sudanese efforts to maintain unity and independence. They expressed worry over the attempts aiming at transfering the Red Sea to tension and instability area.

The joint communique confirmed the importance of intensifying the efforts to enable the Lebanese people to protect its national unity.

The two sides expressed satisfactory over the cessation of fighting between Iraq and Iran and urged all parties to work for peace in the region.

Regarding the situation in the Horn of Africa, they confirmed the importance of continuing dialogue to settle conflicts between the countries.

The two sides condemned the South African regime and expressed support to the fair struggle of South African and Namibian peoples. They confirmed the importance of implementing Geneva Accord to achieve peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Bahrain

Amir Receives Message from Beninese President

JN2509104088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Manama, 25 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, has received a written message from Beninese President Mathieu Kerkou on bilateral cooperation, current African developments, and issues of common interest to both states. The message was conveyed by Souradjou Ibrahim, special adviser to the Beninese president, during a meeting with the Bahraini amir this morning. The Beninese envoy arrived in Manama yesterday on a 2-day visit to Bahrain during a tour of a number of the region's states.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Manama From Sanaa

JN2609135288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1240 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Manama, 26 Sep (WAKH)—PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Manama this afternoon from Sanaa on a visit to the State of Bahrain during his tour of a number of states in the region. During his visit, 'Arafat will hold talks with a number of officials in the State of Bahrain dealing with current developments in the international and Arab arenas, especially concerning the Palestine question. Upon arrival, the Palestinian chief was received by Khalid ibn 'Abdallah Al Khalifah, minister of housing and acting foreign minister; Wafa Nabhan, director of the PLO office in Bahrain; and Yasin al-Sharif, director of the PLO office in Qatar.

Meets With Amir

JN2609151188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Manama, 26 Sep (WAKH)—Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah this evening received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the accompanying delegation who are presently visiting Manama. [passage omitted] 'Arafat had arrived in Manama earlier today as part of a tour of a number of countries in the region.

Saudi Arabia

King Receives PLO's Yasir 'Arafat 25 Sep

LD2509203388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 25 Sep (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al'-Aziz, may God protect him, received this afternoon at his office at Al-Salam Palace Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, and Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir.

The audience was also attended by Hani al-Hasan and Sulayman al-Sharfa, political advisers to Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Meets PLO's Qaddumi

LD2909082088 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0330 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Washington 29 Sep (SPA)—The foreign minister and head of the kingdom's delegation to the meeting of the UN General Assembly, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, at his residence in New York last night met with the head of the PLO's Political Department Faruq Qaddumi. The meeting was attended by the Saudi ambassador to the United States, His Royal Highness Prince Bandar ibn Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. During the meeting, efforts being made to support the issue of the Palestinian people in the deliberations of the UN General Assembly were reviewed and the oppressive practices of the Israeli enemy in the occupied Arab territories were condemned.

United Arab Emirates

'Abdallah Meets With Murphy, Senegalese Minister

JN2909080188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] New York, 28 Sep (WAKH)—Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, today met with Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the Gulf, the Middle East, and Lebanon. Rashid 'Abdallah stressed the need for an international move to resolve the Middle East problem and the situation in Lebanon. Earlier, Rashid 'Abdallah held a meeting with Senegalese Foreign Minister Ibrahima Fall. They discussed bilateral relations and Senegal's preparations to host the ICO's coming summit conference.

Yemen Arab Republic

Libyan Delegation Attends Revolution Celebration

LD2809125888 Tripoli JANA in English 0816 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Sanaa, Al-Fatih [September] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Dr. Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi, the member of the Consultative Council (?and) secretary-general of the General People's Council of North Yemen met the Great Jamahiriyah delegation taking part in the celebrations marking the 26th anniversary of

the revolution in North Yemen headed by the secretary of the trade, vocational and productive congresses' affairs at the General People's Congress Secretariat in Great Jamahiriyah.

During this meeting, they discussed the aspects of cooperation and joint coordination between the General People's Congress in North Yemen and the General People's Congress of Great Jamahiriyah and the means to develop such cooperation to serve joint causes to consolidate the march of unity action to arrive at the (?national goals) of destiny of our Arab nation and serve its causes. Dr. al-Asbahi highly appreciated the truthful nationalist stances of Great Jamahiriyah towards the cause of the Arab nation. The meeting was attended by a number of officials in the permanent committee of the General People's Congress in North Yemen.

President Receives Saudi Minister, Fahd Message

JN2809125388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, on bilateral relations and Arab and international issues of common interest. Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir conveyed the message to the president during a meeting today.

'Ali al-Sha'ir conveyed the greetings of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to President Saddam Husayn who asked the Saudi minister to convey his greetings to the custodian of the two holy mosques and his hopes that the Saudi people will achieve further progress and prosperity.

The meeting was attended by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, the president's secretary, and the Saudi charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

The Saudi minister arrived in Baghdad at noon today and was received by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives; Meets With 'Aziz

JN2709080888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Sep (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived here late last night on a visit of several days to Iraq.

Earlier, 'Arafat visited the YAR to extend congratulations on the YAR national day.

Discusses Palestinian Issue

JN2809185288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the Palestinian issue, the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory, and ongoing talks between Iraq and Iran to implement Resolution No 598.

The meeting was attended by Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and deputy chief of the RCC Liberation Movements Office; the undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry; Comrade 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, member of the PLO Executive Committee and secretary general of the Arab Liberation Front; and the director of the PLO office in Baghdad.

'Aziz Arrives in New York To Attend UN Session

JN3009095688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 30 Sep 88

[Text] New York, 30 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here last night leading Iraq's delegation to attend meetings of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly. Tariq 'Aziz is scheduled to meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar later today. He will also hold consultations with a number of foreign ministers of Arab and foreign states during their participation in the UN General Assembly meetings.

Joint Cooperation Meetings With India Begin

Indian Delegation Arrives

JN2809190288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—Kuz Alfaz, undersecretary of the Indian External Affairs Ministry, arrived in Baghdad today on a several-day visit to Iraq. The Indian official will lead the Indian side to the preliminary meetings of the joint Iraqi-Indian committee for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation to begin in Baghdad on Saturday.

'Expert Level' Talks Begin

JN2909115588 Baghdad INA in English 1015 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 29, INA—Meetings on the level of experts started here today between Iraq and India in preparation for the 11th session of the joint committee for economic, trade and technical cooperation, due here next Saturday.

Iraqi and Indian undersecretaries of Transport and Communications, Messrs. Ghassan al-Rawdan and Lounza Flinn, [name as received], stressed in reciprocal speeches at the meeting their two countries' desire to consolidate and strengthen bilateral cooperation and to achieve positive results at the meetings in service of joint interests of Iraq and India.

An authorized source said the two sides agreed, during today's meetings, to set up three committees for cooperation in commercial, financial and econoomic fields and implementation of cultural and technical cooperation projects.

On the agenda of the meetings were items on expanding trade exchange between Iraq and Indian, following up implementation of projects executed by Indian companies operating in Iraq exchange of expertise and sponsoring training courses, the source mentioned.

Meetings of the Iraq-Indian committee for economic, trade and technical cooperation is due to start in Baghdad next Saturday on a ministerial level, the committee will ratify what was achieved by today's technical meetings.

Agriculture Minister Returns From Bulgaria

JN2909185488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Karim Hasan Rida and the accompanying delegation returned to Baghdad this evening from a several-day visit to Bulgaria. During the visit, the Iraqi minister held talks with a number of officials on aspects of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the fields of agriculture and irrigation.

Industry Minister, Brazilian General Discuss Ties

JN2909131888 Baghdad INA in English 1307 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 29, INA—Iraqi Minister of Industry and Military Industrialization Mr. Husayn Kamil discussed with the head of the supplies committee of the Brazilian Army, General Diego and his accompanying delegation at a meeting here today means of developing industrial cooperation relations between the two countries. The two sides expressd at the meeting their joint desire to promote bilateral cooperation during the coming stage.

The meeting was attended by undersecretary of industry and military industrialization as well as the Brazilian ambassador in Baghdad.

Oil Minister on Gulf Tour, OPEC Issues

JN2809170488 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 28 (GNA)—Iraq said today it was ready to join a collective production-sharing agreement if OPEC worked to resolve all other problems, including prices, quotas and price differentials.

"I reject the talk about Iraq's quota as the basic problem facing OPEC," Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi said in an interview.

Talking to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, WAM, before his departure here today, Al-Jalabi said "there are other more serious problems facing the organisation at present."

"Iraq is ready to return to an OPEC agreement on output quotas after the crux of the pending problems are resolved," he said.

These problems he added, dealt with over-production, the pricing structure, including differentials on quality crudes and the varying positions by certain members on their quotas.

Al-Jalabi said during his talks with the Gulf Arab leaders he has felt there was a consensus on the need to resolve all the problems plaguing OPEC.

He also visited Kuwait and Qatar, as part of his regional tour.

He explained that the prevailing trend was to deal with the "causes" behind over-production by certain OPEC members.

Asked if Iraq considered the present output of 2.7 million barrels a day to be its "practical and realistic" quota, Al-Jalabi said, "the present production has been maintained since September 1987 and has not changed."

The Iraqi minister hinted his country might ask for more than 2.3 million barrels a day which it had demanded under the often-stated calls for quota parity with Iran.

"Our position is clear, when we called for quota parity with Iran we were at war...but now we are going through new circumstances, which require greater commitments," Al-Jalabi said.

However, he added Baghdad was willing to discuss a new quota as part of "other issues that should be dealt with."

He said the main purpose of his current tour was to discuss the general situation in the world oil market and what action to be taken to reverse the price deterioration.

In this respect, he welcomed as "good idea, which we support" the proposed joint meeting of OPEC's Pricing Panel and the Long-Term Strategy Committee.

But he denied reports that suggested the joint meeting was to bring Iraq and Iran into a serious discussion on their quotas as the basis for any future production-sharing agreement.

Al-Jalabi said the idea for such a meeting has been proposed during the past two months during the tour of OPEC's Secretary General Prof. Subroto.

He said the purpose of that joint meeting was to discuss with other members on both committees the various problems facing OPEC, including the quota issue.

Responding to a question on Iraq's export capabilities, Al-Jalabi said his country was determined to use its export facilities on the Arabian Gulf.

"We have already using certain export terminals and there are plans which are under implementation," he pointed our.

He said "various parties" were currently undertaking surveys of areas, which have witnessed military operatios during the eight-year-old conflict with Iran.

The plan aims at defining what action should be taken and the time needed to re-operate these export facilities. The Iraqi minister said.

However, he said it was difficult under the present circumstances to give an accurate figure on Iraq's export potentials before receiving the final reports on the current survey.

U.S.-Iran Secret Hostage Agreement Reported

TA3009134088 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 30 Sep 88 pp 1, 6

["Exclusive" report by Gyora Shamis]

[Text] Geneva—In their first face-to-face diplomatic encounter since the 1986 Irangate fiasco, the U.S. and Iran have secretly hammered out an agreement that, if all goes according to plan, will see the release by Lebanese Shi'a militants of five American hostages on or about October 7. A second batch of three Americans and one Englishman—thought to be Anglican clergyman Terry Waite—is to be freed a week later.

Iran's willingness to negotiate on the Western hostages held by its Lebanese allies has already resulted in an asassination attempt—until now unreported—on Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was in June appointed Iranian commander in chief, with a brief to forego Khomeyni rhetoric for pragmatic results.

According to sources in Iran, three days before the talks opened on Monday, ambushers in Tehran opened fire with automatic weapons and RPG's on Rafsanjani's motorcade on its way back from the Majlis (parliament). Four Rafsanjani bodyguards were killed. The near-miss demonstrated to Iranian pragmatists and to Washington that Rafsanjani desperately needs support if the hosgtages are to be freed. This recognition has determined the agenda agreed upon by Washington after the first two groups of hostages are released.

According to sources in Geneva, the deal includes:—Overt U.S. economic aid to rebuild a war-battered Iran, and arms sales, including jet fighters, on the table.—A staged thaw of Iranian assets, valued by Tehran at $5-6 billion, frozen in U.S. banks since Khomeyni's revolutionary cadres stormed the U.S. embassy in 1979.—Resumption of formal diplomatic relations. To signal its willingness to move ahead on the hostages, the U.S. put aside its long-standing precondition to talks, the demand that Tehran press its Lebanese allies to release U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Willian Higgins. The U.S. has for the moment accepted the claim that Higgins is not on the list of 18 Western hostages whose fate Tehran controls. The Iranians may either be ignorant of his whereabouts, may have lost him to some other force or Higgins may no longer be alive.

To show its confidence in Tehran, the U.S. this week ceased convoying U.S. flag-of-convenience vessels navigating the Persian Gulf signaling a willingness to scale down the U.S. naval presence in the region. Meanwhile, U.S. public statements on the Iran-Iraq conflict have edged closer to the Iranian line, highlighted by President Reagan's condemnation in the UN this week of Iraq's use of chemical weapons.

Washington is determined, however, to keep arms sales to Iran and the hostages' release separate. Only after all hostages known to be held by Iranian surrogates in Lebanon are released will the U.S. agree to lifting President Carter's arms embargo and to reopening the military contracts suspended after the Shah of Iran was deposed by the Ayatollah Khomeyni in 1979.

The secret talks in Geneva have stirred surface ripples in Washington. In this week's Bush-Dukakis TV debate, an apparently unbriefed Dukakis declared six times that his administration would never do business with Khomeyni. The better-informed Bush left this point open, asking only to be judged on the record of the administration he served, including the end to the Gulf war.

In the Middle East meanwhile, Rafsanjani's three months in power have jolted the pro-Iranian Hizballah (Party of God) in Beirut. Sources there said the militia's security and hostage-taking branch—Islamic Jihad—was hit by an internal coup last July. Fu'ad Mughaniyah, [name as published] 24, younger brother of former Islamic Jihad chief Imad Bughaniyah [name as published] (now living in Tehran), captured the organization—and the hostages—from more militant Hizballah factions. To maintain control, Fu'ad had Yussuf Juhar [name as published]—head of the squads who abducted the Americans and Waite—put to death.

In August, having asserted his authority, Fu'ad ordered the 18 captives scattered in homes of Shi'a families in the Harat Haryikh [placename as published] suburb of south Beirut, east of the Al-'Awza'i Hizballah stronghold. They are now being guarded by mixed bands of Shi'a activists trusted by the Mughaniyahs, members of the allied Ghoshan clan [name as published] and Mustafa Dirani's [name as published] "Believers of Resistance" militia.

Foreign sources claim Dirani also captured an Israeli prisoner and there has been no word of progress towards his release. Dirani finds new hideouts for the hostages who are kept moving around.

The 11 Arabic-speaking Iranian intelligence officers helping guard the hostages were flown home via Nicosia earlier this month on Rafsanjani's orders. Fu'ad was told to take orders from Iran's ambassador to Beirut, Ahmad Dastmalchian.

The Iranians then told the Shi'a extremists to name their price for releasing the captives. At their first conference with the Americans, Iranian delegates named their price: according to an Iranian source in Geneva, Islamic Jihad is demanding a large cash sum—presumably $3 million—and immunity from punishment for Fu'ad and his men. The Shi'as appear to have dropped their long-standing demand for the release of the 17 Shi'a terrorists convicted in Kuwait for skyjacking. This demand was always the biggest obstacle among Shi'a fanatics to the release of the Beirut hostages.

American delegates reportedly told the Iranians that they are in no position to pay ransom.

It was proposed that Iranian and Lebanese Shi'a businessmen working from Western Europe advance the money as "donations to Hizballah's charitable bodies," as France did last year in the case of French captives.

Reportage on Reaction to Tabah Ruling

Ben-Aharon Comments

TA2909163488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Yitzhaq Ro'e and Goni Savir—live]

[Text] [Ro'e] You have heard the news from Geneva, and it's not surprising. According to the ruling of the arbitrators Tabah will be handed over to Egypt. You probably have the text of the ruling, do you not?

[Ben-Aharon] I have a synopsis of the arbitration ruling. God willing, the ruling itself, which runs over hundreds of pages, will arrive by diplomatic pouch within 1-2 days.

[Ro'e] What are you able to say at this point?

[Ben-Aharon] The arbitrators were asked to determine the location of 14 border markers which were in dispute between Israel and Egypt: 13 in the Sinai, from Rafah southward; and another one, the well-known marker no. 91, which is situated on the edge of the area known as Tabah. The arbitrators accepted Israel's position concerning 5 of the 14 markers. As for the rest, including marker no. 91, they accepted Egypt's version.

The arbitrators were not empowered to determine the demarcation of the borderline, or the sovereignty to be applied to any given area, but simply to decide on the correct location of those border markers in dispute between us and Egypt.

[Savir] Are you saying that the demarcation of the borderline, including that passing through marker no. 91, is still subject to negotiations between Israel and Egypt?

[Ben-Aharon] Definitely. As was the case in 1982, each case will require negotiations and technical work in the area in order to determine the final location of the border markers in each place, and to decide what will be done with those areas which pass from one side to the other. Particularly when it comes to the area of Tabah, because of the installations there, there is a problem, as was the case with the Sinai.

[Ro'e] Does that mean that the current ruling is not yet final? This opens numerous possibilities.

[Ben-Aharon] I would not say numerous possibilities, but in any event it is subject to negotiations.

[Savir] You mention the installations. Are you saying that the hotel and the resort village will not necessarily be transferred to Egypt?

[Ben-Aharon] I did not say that. I am only saying that everything is subject to negotiations because the decision on the location of the border markers does not close the lid on the affair, on all its implications and components. Negotiations will have to be held on whether the hotel, the resort village, and all the property there will go over to Egyptian sovereignty—and in all likelihood they will go over to Egyptian sovereignty; negotiations will have to be held on their future, and on the arrangements concerning access to these sites both by Israeli citizens and tourists.

[Ro'e] Can you say anything about Israel's next move? Is it clear that Israel will appeal to a tribunal? [not further specified]

[Ben-Aharon] No, we will not approach a tribunal. The matter must first be submitted to the political level, and this will be done by the delegation upon its return from Geneva. The Cabinet must first decide how to deal with the issue, and on the guidelines for the negotiations in the future. The terms of the arbitration bill stipulate that the sides must meet within 21 days to agree on dates, and that both sides may once again approach the arbitrators and ask for explanations concerning the ruling.

[Savir] But there is no time limit to the negotiations following the agreement on the dates?

[Ben-Aharon] There is no time limit.

[Ro'e] Yosi Ben-Aharon, is Tabah gone?

[Ben-Aharon] I would say that we should view the Tabah affair in the right proportions. We should bear in mind that it is an area of only 750 square meters, including a nice hotel, a beautiful beach, and the Rafi Nelson resort village. This is a small area, however, mostly of interest to tourists, and perhaps of sentimental interest to some people. The issue should not affect the important and vital relationship between Israel and Egypt. I hope this does not become a source of tension.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 29 September reports: "Yosi Ben-Aharon told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami he hopes there will be no problem in carrying out the arbitration ruling. Our delegation will return to Israel, give its report, and the Cabinet will have to decide when the negotiations with the Egyptians over the implementation of the arbitration ruling will begin. Commenting on accusations that Israel could have reached a more convenient compromise in the past, Ben-Aharon said that the burden of proof lies with those making such arguments.

Having closely followed the talks with the Egyptians, I do not know that the Egyptians were in the past ready to reach a compromise, he noted."]

Shahal Blames Shamir

TA2909154488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal has placed the blame for the outcome of the Tabah arbitration ruling on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. According to Minister Shahal, Israel could have secured better terms if it were not for Mr Shamir, who ignored Egypt's proposals. Mr Shahal held a news conference on the matter. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch was there and filed this report:

Several Likud demonstrators awaited Minister Shahal at the entrance to Bet Sokolov, carrying placards which read: Minister Shahal's Chutzpah Goes Beyond the Tabah Borderline. Minister Shahal was nonplussed and arrived armed with a thick stack of documents. He outlined a series of pleas and campaigns of persuasion which he claimed he tried to apply to Mr Yitzhaq Shamir back in 1985, when Shamir was foreign minister. Shahal contended that it had been possible to obtain a a far better result. Mr Shamir's obtuseness, however, led to the present outcome. In February 1985, claimed Shahal, he met with Egyptian Fresident Mubarak, who asked him to deliver a message regarding a possible package deal. [passage omitted]

Shahal claims that additional messages in the same vein were likewise accorded no comment by Israel. Among these numerous contacts, Minister Shahal recalled the visit by Egyptian Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, who brought a proposal for a wide-ranging arbitration document that would not have prevented Israel from raising objections. Mr Peres, then the prime minister, immediately sought an Inner Cabinet session. Mr Shamir, according to Shahal, refused, saying: There is no rush. Mr Shahal also argued that Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein wanted to embark on the arbitration process. That is why Mr Shamir forbade him to deal with the issue.

Peres on Ruling

TA2909164788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that the ruling on Tabah was already determined in the peace agreement. From the moment the Likud adopted the method outlined in the agreement for handling areas of contention involving Israel and Egypt, anyone could have guessed the results of the Tabah arbitration. We could have gained or lost a year, but since Israel was committed to honor the peace agreement, it had to abide by its undertaking. Mr Peres was interviewed in New York by our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer.

It was reported from sources in the foreign minister's party that Mr Peres will offer a detailed reaction to the ruling when he returns to Israel tomorrow. At the same time, these sources noted that they were shocked by what they called the Likud's irresponsible behavior in this regard. The Likud turns its back on everything for which it is responsible. It is behaving in a most provocative way, while totally ignoring the interests of peace.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 29 September provides an update by Yaron Kulas in Jerusalem stating that "an announcement issued by the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Jerusalem a few minutes ago states that after realizing that both sides—Israel and Egypt—had failed to reach a compromise, the Israeli Government accepted all the components of the arbitration process. The two countries pledged to implement the arbitration ruling. The ruling will therefore be presented to the Israeli Government. After this, contacts with the Egyptian Government will begin to implement the arbitrators' ruling."]

Delegates Discuss Next Phase

TA2909173688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] The Israeli and Egyptian delegates in Geneva held their first meeting a short while ago, following the publication of the arbitration ruling. They discussed the next phase of bilateral contacts on matters pertaining to the Tabah enclave. The deputy director of the Israeli delegation, Robi Sabel, told our correspondent Yig'al Rom that the appeals committee's decision is clearly inclined in Egypt's favor. Nonetheless, he added, the political echelon should be allowed to conduct the next stage of contacts over the final demarcation of the borderline in the region.

The arbitration committee ruled against the opinion of Rut Lapidot from Israel, and determined that the position of the five border points as presented by Egypt is final. At the same time, the committee abstained from delineating the borderline in the strip connecting the northernmost Egyptian point and the Red Sea. It also transpired, from the committee's remarks on the missing border point, Parker Point, that most of the appeals committee members believe that the entire area of Tabah should be handed over to Egypt.

Shamir: Further Talks Needed

TA2909180788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir toured Beersheba today. After the publication of the arbitration ruling on Tabah, our correspondent Menahem Friedman asked him whether the ruling indeed implies that we have lost Tabah.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I would be wary of issuing a definitive and conclusive comment today. What we heard—and this was reported to me over the telephone from Geneva just now—is that the arbitrators' ruling is not in our favor. According to the bill of arbitration, the arbitrators were not required to delineate the Egyptian-Israeli borderline, but to rule where the border posts, or stones marking the border, should be positioned. In this respect they largely adopted the Egyptian stand, although on some points they accepted Israel's position. This, however, applies only to rather minor issues. Still, the borderline should be demarcated, and future life along the border discussed. This will have to be discussed with the Egyptians through negotiations. Let us wait until we obtain the entire document from the arbitrators. We will then peruse it, jurists will review it, we will initially hold an Inner Cabinet discussion on it, and then decide what to do.

[Friedman] Do you accept the Egyptian position, repeated several times mainly over the Egyptian media recently, that the refusal to hand over the Aviya-Sonesta Hotel and the Rafi Nelson resort to Egyptian sovereignty will affect relations and peace?

[Shamir] We have since then heard a denial that this was actually said. This denial came in the wake of my reaction. I said we will accept no threats and that it is a matter that ought to be discussed in bilateral forums with the aim of reaching a decision together. I do not believe that the Tabah issue should totally disrupt Israeli-Egyptian relations or harm peace. At the same time, it is necessary to hold substantive talks on this matter. Just as the Egyptians guard their own interests, so too must we care about ours.

[Friedman] Do you plan to offer the Egyptians joint management of the tourist area in Tabah?

[Shamir] Look, throughout the years when Tabah was a hot issue it was always Israel which sought a compromise. We always said that we preferred conciliation. We did not mean that we would have been happy merely with the issuing of such a statement; we actually tried to reach acceptable compromises, and on a number of occasions we discussed with Egypt various modes of concession of sovereignty so that that tiny area would not be under any particular rule. There are such precedents in the world, and Tabah would not have been the first region to have that status. We also suggested partitioning the area, an idea that would have benefited both sides' interests. We talked about joint development and management of the area, as this would certainly have profited both parties. The Egyptians turned down all the compromise proposals. I was very sad to read today that it was Israel that turned down all the compromises offered it. This is a pure, unadulterated lie.

[Friedman] Finally Sir, what is your reaction to the series of accusations recently exchanged between the two major blocs regarding the loss of Tabah?

[Shamir] It is not a matter of accusation, it is a matter of drawing conclusions and learning lessons for the future. I maintain that we should have preferred compromise, and that we should have insisted on it. This strategy is the best and most correct. If problems should arise at some point in the future, I point an accusing finger at them [the Alignment] which, with the help of the Egyptians, and unfortunately also with the help of the Americans, pressed only for arbitration. I am not blaming anyone; I am merely affirming that we should learn the lesson from this and realize that Israel should not be interested in any international arbitration—whether on territorial matters or on anything else. Compromise is the best way. [end recording]

Shamir Blames Alignment

TA2909205888 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yig'al Goren on 29 September in Shamir's office—videorecorded]

[Text] [Goren] Mr Prime Minister, now that the arbitrators have accepted the Egyptian position, do you think there is still room for an argument over the final demarcation of the border, or should we come to terms with the fact that Tabah will become Egyptian territory?

[Shamir] At this moment it is not totally clear what the arbitrators are proposing. We will have to examine the document very carefully and decide on our next steps in the near future. I can only say that it has once again been proven that international arbitration is always detrimental to Israel's interests, and the case of Tabah is no exception. As for the future, we will have to talk to the Egyptians and hold negotiations with them over the arrangements.

[Goren] Mr Prime Minister, I would like to remind you that the decision to go to arbitration was made by the Inner Cabinet in which you and the Likud ministers share state responsibility. This being the case, you could have objected to the decision and prevented the arbitration.

[Shamir] That is correct. We, me in particular, objected to arbitration for a long time. Action was taken against me, against us, coupled with very strong pressure by the Alignment members of the Cabinet, the U.S. Government, and Egypt. At a certain point, they gained the upper hand and we agreed to try the method of arbitration. But, as I said before, it has once again been proven that this method is far inferior to the method of conciliation which we could also have chosen. I persistently argued in favor of conciliation.

[Goren] If that is so, Mr Prime Minister, you could have objected to arbitration rather than having the present situation where you are actually having your cake and eating it too; in other words, you made a decision and objected to it at the same time.

[Shamir] I would like to explain something which we should bear in mind in the future, a lesson for the future. We decided to go to arbitration, in spite of our reservations, because it was feared the Cabinet might collapse and disband, and we would have to call for elections because of Tabah, and we did not want that.

[Goren] Sir, post factum, is there any sense in looking for culprits? Since the die is cast, perhaps we could use the Tabah affair to increase cooperation with Egypt on which you have been lavishing so much praise recently.

[Shamir] The Alignment is the one that is constantly looking for culprits. I am not looking for culprits, I just want our people to decide on their future. As for the question of Tabah, I think we should seriously sit with the Egyptians and hold discussions based on a sense of unity. In all the discussions on Tabah held with the Egyptians to date, the Alignment members of the Cabinet acted hand in hand with the Egyptians.

[Goren] Sir, you are actually making very serious statements. Let me say it once again: All the resolutions concerning Tabah were made by the Inner Cabinet. The Inner Cabinet can technically decide not to make any decisions. That being the case, why did you not get up and leave the Inner Cabinet and say: Gentlemen, we do not agree with this?

[Shamir] I have already explained it, I have just told you why we acted the way we did. Let me repeat it: This situation was created because the Alignment acted together with Egypt on the question of Tabah against us, against the Likud's position in the Cabinet. This is what led to this situation. Now this situation has become a fact, which probably cannot be changed. What I say is that negotiations should be held now with the Egyptians on ways to settle the matter, but these negotiations must be held based on unity and cooperation.

[Goren] Sir, is there also room for negotiations on the final location of the border, or should we come to terms with this fact and conduct negotiations on the civilian arrangements, such as entry of Israelis, properties, and so on?

[Shamir] All these issues are interrelated, but as I said before, we must carefully peruse the specifics of the documents and determine our position accordingly.

[Goren] Does Tabah merit risking the peace treaty with Egypt, or spoiling the atmosphere between the two countries?

[Shamir] Tabah will not bring about the end of peaceful relations between Israel and Egypt, there is no such fear. Therefore, there is no sense in arguing about it. If Egypt wants peace to persist, peace will continue. As for the specifics, we should hold discussions and make a decision.

Further Talks After Elections

TA3009053288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Sep 88

[Text] The joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee will convene in mid-November to discuss the demarcation of the border in Tabah in accordance with the arbiters' ruling. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that this was agreed in contacts between the Israeli and Egyptian delegations in Geneva. The talks between the two countries on arrangements for Israeli tourism to Tabah and cooperation on managing the holiday sites will also take place after the November elections.

Rabin Sees 'Room for Maneuver'

TA3009063788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Sep 88

[Text] It is inconceivable that we will not abide by a ruling to which we committed ourselves a priori, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said. The arbitration ruling still leaves room for maneuver on the demarcation of the border along the beach and the arrangements for the hotel and holiday sites, Rabin added.

[Begin Rabin recording] I cannot imagine that the government, which decided to agree to arbitration and committed itself to accepting the arbiters' ruling in the wake of a decision by a majority of the Inner Cabinet, will now not accept these decisions. Nevertheless, the arbitration ruling still leaves room for maneuver over the section of the border from border marking 91 to the beach and over arrangements for the area of the hotel and the holiday village. This is what should be dealt with now. [end recording]

Door Opened to Peace

JN2909161688 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1440 GMT 29 Sep 88

["Observation" by unidentified commentator]

[Text] Now that the arbitration panel's decision on the Tabah dispute has been issued, the last obstacle to the normalization of Israeli-Egyptian relations since the conclusion of the peace treaty between the two states 10 years ago has been removed. While we used to hear voices in Jerusalem expressing dissatisfaction with the so-called cold peace between Egypt and Israel, we used to hear Egyptian officials justify this by advancing two major obstacles that stand in the way of full normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations: The IDF troops' entry into southern Lebanon to carry out the "Peace for Galilee" operation in 1982 and the two countries' dispute over Tabah, which is a piece of land less than 1 square km on which touristic installations and a big hotel were built. Egypt used to claim this piece of land as Egyptian property.

The withdrawal of the Israeli troops from Lebanon took place several years ago. Now that the arbitration panel's decision on the Tabah dispute has been issued, the door has been opened for enhancing and entrenching the pillars of Egyptian-Israeli peace. Besides, the door has also been opened for laying these pillars on foundations that are stronger than the previous ones. Egypt has opted to pursue the course of peace with Israel. Furthermore, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak utilizes every occasion to reiterate his commitment to the course of peace and negotiations which has allowed Egypt to achieve all of its objectives and to regain its entire territory without the shedding of one drop of blood.

It is worth recalling here that 11 Arab states have restored their full normal ties with Egypt, a matter tantamount to implicit recognition and acceptance of the peace course being pursued by Egypt—the peace course which has proven to be beneficial to both states and which has replaced the course based on the pursuit of violence and wars which has proven to be bankrupt.

Now that the arbitration panel's decision on the Tabah dispute has been issued, it is clear that the Egyptian and Israeli sides must prove anew their goodwill in the negotiations and the dialogue which will take place to put the arbitrators' decision into effect. Two years ago, Israel accepted the idea of resorting to arbitration on the Tabah dispute. It goes without saying that Israel will abide by the decision made by the arbitration panel regardless of the opposition which might be voiced on this decision by some Israeli quarters. What is required is to see Egypt also prove its goodwill toward Israel and toward the Middle East peace process through the attainment of a settlement comfortable to the two parties on the Tabah dispute—a settlement that allows Egyptians and Israelis alike to enter Tabah freely and without obstacles, problems, or complications and that also leaves room for developing touristic facilities and installations in Tabah in the interest of all parties.

As we have just indicated, now that the Tabah dispute has been resolved, Israel hopes that the Egyptian-Israeli peace will proceed on the right course so that it can become, as Egyptian and Israeli leaders and peoples desire, an example to be emulated by all peoples of the region so that a just and comprehensive peace in the middle East can be realized to help the region prosper and serve its peoples' interests.

Peres Meets USSR's Petrovskiy in New York

TA2909181888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] In New York, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' meeting with Vladimir Petrovskiy, the deputy Soviet foreign minister, ended a short while ago. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports:

[Begin recording] [Schiffer] Let us begin with the happy and most substantial piece of news: Vladimir Petrovskiy, the deputy Soviet foreign minister, said that the Israeli consular delegation will be allowed to stay in Moscow for another 3 months. We can only assume that this will be the general trend in the future as well, and that the visas will be extended every 3 months—as Israel has been doing for the Soviet consular delegation. Other matters that were broached had to do with the Middle East. The two held a general discussion on normalization of relations. On this point, the Soviet delegate adhered to his country's stand that only an international conference could result in the establishment of full diplomatic relations with Israel. There is also some good news in the Jewish sphere. The Soviet delegate indirectly confirmed the report we broadcast this morning that substantial changes are about to be introduced in the Soviet Union regarding emigration policies. Upon leaving the meeting, we asked the Soviet representative about it. This was his response:

[Petrovskiy—in English] You know, the Soviet Union is in the process now of changing its legislature in many fields. At the 19th party conference we have taken the decisions to create the legal social stage in our country, and in our opinion it means that the highest international standards should be applied in domestic legislation, and we don't consider this as only the privilege of the Soviet Union.

[Schiffer translates the above and continues] This means that in the future we should expect far-reaching changes in the area of the exit of Jews from the Soviet Union.

On another issue, the Soviet representative reiterated his country's position that as far as it is concerned, the PLO alone represents the Palestinian cause and must participate in an international conference. The Soviet representative talked about realism and restraint in the PLO. Here Minister Peres expressed the extreme opposite views, noting that at present the PLO does not fulfill criteria acceptable by the international community for participation in the peace process. [end recording]

Peres Meets Egyptian, Polish Counterparts

TA3009063188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Sep 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has left New York and is on his way back to Israel, following his visit there for the opening of the UN General Assembly. Before departing, he met on the Tabah issue with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and with his counterpart from Poland. From New York, Jonathan Shachter:

[Begin recording] [Shachter] Foreign Minister Peres said that the Tabah decision represented a commitment made by the Begin government as part of the Camp David agreements, and as such will be honored in good faith. His Egyptian counterpart echoed that sentiment, adding there was no indication yet as to when or how it

would be implemented. First, he said, he would have to return to Cairo; then contacts will continue over the implementation. How are relations now between the two countries in the light of the verdict?

['Abd al-Majid] Well, I think we have normal relations. We have good relations, and I think my meeting with Mr Peres is a sign that we are on good terms. No problem.

[Shachter] What about agreement over the implementation of Tabah?

['Abd al-Majid] No.

[Shachter] In fact, 'Abd al-Majid told Peres that the Tabah verdict will strengthen the connections between Israel and Egypt. 'Abd al-Majid also told Peres that Egyptian courts will next month issue a verdict in the Ra's al-Burqa' murder case, after which compensation will be paid to the families of the victims. Following his meeting with the Egyptian foreign minister, Peres met with Tadeusz Olechowski, the foreign minister of Poland. The two agreed to slightly upgrade the level of relations between the two countries by taking the Israeli interest section in Warsaw out of the Dutch Embassy and making it an independent entity, similar to—but not—a mission. The Polish interest section in Jerusalem will also be made independent. It has not yet been decided what to call the two offices. A small team will be appointed to work out the semantics and other details. Olechowski was also upbeat about the improvement in cultural, economic, and tourism ties between the two countries, calling them the best way to prepare the ground for further development. I asked him if he had any timetables in mind.

[Olechowski] Timetables? What you mean timetables? We are of the opinion that step-by-step relations, they have all the chances to go ahead, but nothing to fix to be done in January or February. The life is going ahead and our relations as well.

[Shachter] The two foreign ministers discussed the upcoming trip of Abba Eban as a Foreign Ministry envoy to several Eastern bloc countries, and they decided that Poland, too, will be included on his agenda. Olechowski invited Peres also to visit Warsaw, but the Israeli foreign minister declined, saying he could not make the trip before the parliamentary elections. [end recording]

Islamic Leader on Political Participation

TA2909171888 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Sep 88 p 4

[Interview with the "spiritual father" of the Islamic movement in Israel, Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, by unidentified correspondent in Kafr Qasim—date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-NAHAR] The Islamic movement does not have a political organization, does it intend to campaign for the Knesset elections and local councils?

[Darwish] Political organization does exist on the level of local councils and authorities. There is no intention, however, to set up a political organization on the Knesset level. As to the local authorities, we have gone through this experience more than once. We are continuing with it because we see in this experience useful work that provides specific services. This is the present range of political activity. I have no idea what future events will hold.

[AL-NAHAR] Is there an agreement between the movement and any other party to campaign for the coming Knesset elections? Newspapers have reported that you will vote for the Progressive List for Peace. Other sources have said that you will vote for 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah. Is this true?

[Darwish] We have no agreement with either Darawshah, Muhammad Mi'ari, HADASH, or any other party, nor will there be an agreement with anyone. The Islamic movement's principal decision so far is that it will neither boycott nor call for boycotting the elections. Who will they vote for? That is up to them, meaning the "members of the Islamic movement." Freedom is guaranteed. The basis is to assess and do what is appropriate.

[AL-NAHAR] Some materials were confiscated in Qalqilyah which were said to be "inflammatory", such as posters for the fourth Islamic art festival in Kafr Kanna and periodicals. The Islamic movement was accused of "provocation" and cooperation with Islamic bodies in the West Bank.

[Darwish] We have learned not to shudder because of accusations, and to not be led by emotion. We do not succumb to emotion quickly, and accusations do not make us tremble. We have become accustomed to hearing accusations. We have also become accustomed to hearing fiery and emotional shouts in our streets. We will not be swept along by either fervor or emotions. Neither will accusations scare or restrain us.

We say that the Islamic movement in the country has its own program and method of operation. We will carry out our program even though we are accused by someone here or there. The Islamic movement is not attempting to raise slogans that are unacceptable to the ruling order, or raise placards that are unacceptable to a specific agency. We say to everyone that the Islamic movement operates within the framework of the law. We challenge anyone, any official, to accuse the Islamic movement of violating the law. We know how to respect our work and mission. We also know how to work within the framework of the law. Accusations can have no effect on us at all. What can one expect from the right-wing tendency inside Israel? The press is filled with the Israeli right wing. What can you expect from them if they find something, a slogan, a drawing, or a placard? Everything is interpreted as "provocation." I would like everyone to be aware of one very important thing. When the Israeli

right wing, and many politicians in Israel, see the holy Koran hanging on the wall, they view this as provocation. That is the situation today. [passage omitted]

[AL-NAHAR] What is the Islamic movement's stance toward the current political moves?

[Darwish] We should not be deceived by temporary gains. We must think before undertaking any step. I, personally, endorse a Palestinian state. The state should be established first, and thereupon the Palestinian people will have to choose the system that they desire for themselves. The important thing is liberation of the Palestinians from occupation, and recognition of their right to self-determination.

[AL-NAHAR] What is your opinion of the decision to sever links between Jordan and the West Bank?

[Darwish] The decision on disengagement consolidates the independence of Palestinian identity, but it will harm the strategic aspect of the Palestinian problem in the long run. [passage omitted]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Riot in Qezi'ot Prison

TA2909134088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Sep 88 p 1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] An IDF soldier and an administrative detainee were wounded, and two observation posts were damaged during a violent riot in the Qezi'ot prison before dawn yesterday. At 0400 a military policeman on reserve duty noticed an administrative detainee, a Gaza journalist, walking about freely in the detention center. The man said that he was coming back from the toilet. It seems that he went there without permission. The policeman tried to tie his hands, but the man resisted and swore at the policeman. The policeman left the detainee, but 2 hours later another policeman in the reserves came up to him and ordered him to stand outside the tent as punishment for his actions. The prisoner continued to swear at the military policemen, and it was then decided to tie up his hands and feet. A fistfight broke out between the policemen and the prisoner.

Hundreds of prisoners in Block 4 watched the incident. Attempts by the prisoners' current leader to convince the detainee to stand outside failed. A few minutes later the prisoners in Block 4 began to riot, to shake the fences, and to throw stones at the observation towers. "There was a big riot in which hundreds of prisoners participated," a senior military source said. The rioters damaged an observation post and wounded one of the soldiers. IDF forces and a emergency force permanently stationed in the detention center were rushed to the scene. An officer ordered the use of live ammunition, and several shots were fired in the air. Tempers in the detention center calmed down, the administrative detainee was handcuffed and locked up. A brigadier general who visited the detention center yesterday expressed anger at the fact that he was not informed of the incident until several hours later.

2 Shot in Gaza; Curfews Lifted

TA3009091888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Sep 88

[Text] Two stonethrowers in the Al-Mughazi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip were slightly wounded last night by IDF gunshots, our correspondent Arye Gus reports. The curfew imposed yesterday on several locations in the Gaza Strip to prevent riots during Rashad al-Shawwa's funeral was lifted at dawn today, and the inhabitants left for work in Israel.

School Closures Extended

TA3009103688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Sep 88

[Excerpts] A youth was shot and wounded in the village of Bal'a during a riot. Our correspondent reports that an IDF force had entered the village to carry out searches and arrests. ('Abd al-Nasir Salah), deputy chairman of the West Bank Arab Authors and Poets Association, was released last night after 6 months administrative detention. [passage omitted]

The Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration extended the order closing schools and universities in the area by 6 weeks. According to the order, the institutions will remain closed until mid-November to safeguard small children from violence and to prevent an increase in rioting. Our correspondent Arye Gus points out that the validity of the former closure order ends today.

King Receives French Chief of Staff 28 Sep
JN2809115088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received at the Royal Hashemite Court the French chief of staff and the French ambassador in Amman. The meeting was attended by Staff General Fathi Abu Talib, [Jordanian] chief of staff.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' Assails U.S. 'Hostility'
JN2909094488 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 29 Sep 88 p 32

[The "Word of the Week" column: "The United States Shows Enmity Toward Arabs by its Hostility to Iraq"]

[Text] The U.S. insistence on accusing Iraq of using poisonous gases against Kurdish rebels is certainly not out of care for the lives of Kurds or in defense of human rights.

It is rather a cheap method and an exposed maneuver by Washington to improve its relations with Iran on the one hand and to distort the Iraqi victory which was achieved contrary to the wishes of the United States and its ally Israel on the other.

As is known, the U.S. Administration used to make prevarications regarding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 which provides for ending the Iraq-Iran war in the hope that this war will end by exhausting both parties and keeping them in need of help and assistance by the U.S. Administration in return for maintaining both U.S. pressures and presence in the region.

But the Iraqi victory has disappointed Washington and reversed its calculations. Hence, the U.S. Administration found nothing to do but accuse Iraq of using chemical weapons against the Kurdish rebels in the hope that this will discount the victory achieved by the Iraqi forces and tarnish Iraq's reputation before world public opinion.

The sanctions imposed by the Reagan Administration will not affect Iraq in the way sought by the Zionist lobby in the United States. This is because Iraq, even during the war, managed to maintain a strong economic situation, and, consequently, the halt to fighting will further strengthen the Iraqi economy and enable it to overcome the obstacles created by the U.S. sanctions.

Washington's bad intentions toward Iraq are confirmed by the fact that the United States intervened to prevent Iran from accepting the Iraqi conditions in the Geneva negotiations.

It seems that Washington does not want Iraq to exploit its military victory on the political, military, and economic levels because this will annoy Israel which fears that Iraq may play a decisive role against it if it continues its aggressive policy and maintains its occupation of Palestinian territories.

Although Iraq is capable of equal confrontation with the United States, the reply to the U.S. accusations and sanctions is supposed to be a strong Arab reply so Washington will realize that its hostility to any Arab country will be a challenge to the whole Arab nation.

Thus, Washington will also realize that its hostility to Arabs will compel it to pay a dear price for its bias toward the enemies of Arabs such as the Iranians and the Israelis.

Al-Husayni Addresses National Conference

NC2909131188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The national conference called by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni ended at noon today. The conference was held at the Bristol Hotel under the chairmanship of former president Sulayman Franjiyah.

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Ministers Walid Junblatt, Nabih Birri, 'Adil 'Usayran, and 'Abdallah al-Rasi, lawyer 'Umar Karami, 21 deputies, and other political and party figures representing various Lebanese areas participated in the conference. [passage omitted]

Speaker Husayn al-Husayni delivered the following speech:

[Begin recording] Gentlemen, I present you with the following draft statement in realization of your aspirations:

The participants in this conference have faith in the unity of Lebanon's territory, people, and institutions. They reject partitionist and divisive schemes. They wish to end the state of war, achieve national reconciliation, rebuild the state on a basis of justice and equality among all the citizens without discrimination between one community and another or between one area and another.

Consequently, in accordance with their national responsibility, they have responded to the call of the Chamber of Deputies speaker to convene an emergency national conference to confront the situation that has resulted from the failure to elect a new president.

The conference rejects the attempts to characterize the current conflict as one of sectarian division, and it unanimously and vigorously denounces the efforts that have been and are being made to block the election of a president and establish sectarian military rule in the country. At the same time, it emphasizes the need to take action with strong resolve and firm determination on the basis of the following resolutions:

1. Coexistence is a sacred covenant and its violation by any authority is illegal; every act designed to violate this covenant constitutes a crime against the people and the homeland.

2. The national constants, particularly the unity of Lebanon's territory, people, and institutions, must be upheld, and all partitionist and settlement schemes must be rejected.

3. Lebanon's Arab identity, affiliation, and fate must be adhered to; Its sovereignty, independence, and republican democratic parliamentary system must be defended; and its territory must be liberated from Israeli occupation.

4. The political system must be reformed to achieve justice, fairness, and equal opportunities among all the Lebanese through participation in decisionmaking, the abolition of political sectarianism, and support for the exercise of democracy in the work of the constitutional institutions.

5. The presidential election must be held at an early date to end the state of fragmentation and infighting, to close the file of the crisis, to enable all displaced persons to return to their areas and homes, and to open a new chapter of national accord and coexistence so that Lebanon may rebuild its institutions, repair its economy, and strengthen its foundations.

6. The government represented by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss is requested to continue to ensure the functioning of state institutions, the provision of public services in all Lebanese areas, and the adoption of the necessary measures that will facilitate the holding of the presidential election as soon as possible.

7. The conference appeals to the heads and governments of all fraternal and friendly states as well as to all Arab and international institutions and organizations to exert efforts to end the plot that is designed to undermine legitimacy in Lebanon as a means of undermining and destroying the state.

8. The utmost efforts will be exerted to implement these resolutions.

Beirut, 29 September 1988.

Junblatt Warns Against 'Christian State'

NC2909141288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Excerpts] PSP leader Junblatt made the following statement today:

The dangers to the Arab national presence in Lebanon are mounting and increasing more than ever before in the history of the Lebanese war. The coup d'etat in which Ja'ja' and 'Awn seized power, and in which the isolationist guns of the Army and the Lebanese Forces militia were united with the blessing of the imperialist West and Israel, with the stupid backing of Iraq, and in coordination with the spiteful 'Arafat—this coup d'etat is the beginning of the creation of a Christian state and another Israel in the Levant. [passage omitted]

In view of this situation, in order to remove any illusion, and so that everyone may shoulder his responsibility before God and history, I state the following:

1. This statelet will not be satisfied with its current borders. Its leaders and those behind them are ambitious and seek to expand southward and northward, to include Marj 'Uyun, Zgharta, Al-Qubayyat, and Zahlah in their state.

2. The Arabs living in the mountain, Beirut, Iqlim al-Kharrub, Sidon, and southern Lebanon will be evicted from this state. Some might be allowed to stay to face a fate similar to the Red Indians in the United States and the blacks in South Africa.

3. There are serious attempts by the Christian isolationists and the forces supporting them to bring a large number of Christians living in the Arab countries to Lebanon to fill the vacuum [caused by the eviction of the Muslims]. If Egypt of Camp David thinks it is far from the civil war, it is mistaken for it is a candidate for such a civil war as a result of its peace with Israel.

4. 'Arafat's dreams of establishing a Palestinian canton in southern Lebanon are ridiculuous and detrimental to the Palestinian and Lebanese issues. Both Israel, which recently enlaraged the security zone, and the Christian isolationists intend to expel the Palestinians northward sooner or later. The current troubles being fomented by 'Arafat are a plot against the Lebanese patriots and Syria and a service to Samir Ja'ja', Michael 'Awn, and Israel.

5. If some Arabs still believe they are safe from the fragmentation and partitionist plans, we say to the ruler of Baghdad that all his divisions will not protect him and will not protect Iraq's unity if the Assyrians remain the masters of the Iraqi Arab people.

6. To those who might be entertaining dreams of establishing a Druze state, we say in advance that this project is an illusion and a mirage. The maximum that imperialism, and specifically Israel, will allow is for the Druze to act as border guards in southern Lebanon. The fate of the rest will be either death or eviction. [passage omitted]

Kolotusha on Soviet Policy Toward Elections

NC2909135588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Statement by Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha, who speaks in Arabic, followed by answers to questions by unidentified correspondents after meeting with Ambassador Faruq Abu al-Lama', secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, in Beirut on 29 September—recorded]

[Text] [Kolotusha] The basic premise of the Soviet Union's stand on the Lebanese issue is that Lebanon should remain a single country, undivided at either the level of political leadership or at the level of official institutions.

Hence, I deemed it imperative to visit the Foreign Ministry because it is the institutions with which the embassies accredited to Lebanon are dealing. Anyhow, our relations with Lebanon continue to be at the level of those with a state. This is the principal point in the Soviet stand.

[Correspondent] Mr Ambassador: Is the Soviet Union undertaking efforts to facilitate the election of a president of the Republic?

[Kolotusha] There are many complex issues in the Lebanese arena today. There are many issues which depend on the Lebanese. There also are many issues which possibly depend upon foreign parties. However, the practical steps in this regard must be wise and thoroughly studied.

[Correspondent] Are U.S.-Soviet and French-Soviet contacts taking place to facilitate the presidential elections?

[Kolotusha] I can say that consultations are taking place at the international level and that the Soviet Union is participating in them.

[Correspondent] Then how can you explain the announcement by the Foreign Ministry of the Soviet Union that U.S. and Soviet officials have not discussed the issue of the presidential candidates?

[Kolotusha] The issue has not been discussed between officials of the two countries. There is no explanation other than that which the Soviet Foreign Ministry's official spokesman gave.

[Correspondent] Mr Ambassador, the French foreign minister has dispatched an envoy to Moscow to discuss the issue of the presidential elections. Could you reveal the true role which the Soviet Union is playing with regard to the [local] parties and in the international arena to facilitate the elections?

[Kolotusha] Consultations are taking place and endeavors are being undertaken with the aim of convincing the parties of the need to hold presidential elections. In practice, some ideas possibly have not crystallized yet.

[Correspondent] Are there Soviet-Syrian contacts on this issue?

[Kolotusha] Consultations are taking place at more than one level, and these certainly include contacts with Syria.

[Correspondent] According to your information, do you expect elections to be held in Lebanon?

[Kolotusha] We hope so. We hope so because this is the only possible option.

[Correspondent] Will you visit General Michel 'Awn soon?

[Kolotusha] Matters need to be studied further because, as a prominent Lebanese politician has said, the situation is ambiguous and, hence, the Soviet Union and its embassy supposedly must take steps which have been thoroughly studied.

[Correspondent] Is it possible that this visit will take place once these steps have been taken?

[Kolotusha] We hope that an opportunity will arise to hold the presidential elections. This is the only way by which Lebanon could avoid further complications and other countries could avoid additional embarrassment.

[Correspondent] Mr Ambassador, the ambassadors of the all major powers, except the ambassador of the Soviet Union, already have met with Gen 'Awn. Is there a particular reason for this development?

[Kolotusha] Yes, a state of ambiguity prevails.

[Correspondent] What ambiguity? He was appointed...

[Kolotusha, interrupting] There are two governments in the country.

[Correspondent] No, there is one government.

[Second correspondent] But you met with the other government. Is this your stand?

[Kolotusha] I did not meet with another government.

[Correspondent] With former prime minister Al-Huss?

[Kolotusha] There were certain circumstances.

[Correspondent] This means that the Soviet Union does not recognize de jure Michel 'Awn's government? Is this what we should understand from your statement?

[Kolotusha] We have no stand with regard to the two governments. The issue of the two governments only concerns the Lebanese, who must decide which of the two is the legitimate one.

[Correspondent] There are differences of view?

[Kolotusha] There are differences of view. Therefore, we do not yet have a crystallized stand. As I have said, the solution and the way out of the impasse is to hold the presidential elections.

[Correspondent] Where have the Soviet consultations on this issue reached?

[Kolotusha] I have no detailed information.

Iranian Ambassador Briefed by Al-Huss

LD2909203388 Tehran IRNA In English 1804 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Beirut, Sept. 30, IRNA—Iran's ambassador here Ahmad Dastmalchian stressed on Lebanon's unity and independence as well as freedom of usurped lands from Zionist yoke, in his meeting with Acting Prime Minister Salim Al-Huss Thursday.

In a talk with IRNA at the end of the meeting, Dastmalchian said he was briefed by Al-Huss on Lebanon's current situation. "We emphasized Iran's backing for Lebanese people and that country's unity and independence including the legitimacy of Al-Huss' government."

The Islamic Republic of Iran endorses all sincere efforts for solving Lebanon's current problems and calls for freedom of Lebanese land from the Zionist regime's occupation, he said. In response, Salim al-Huss thanking Iran's stance emphasised Islamic solidarity between the two countries.

Army Positions Attacked in Suq al-Gharb

NC3009063788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0531 GMT 30 Sep 88

[Text] We just received this news report from the editor's desk: Artillery and rocket fire has been heard for 5 minutes along the Suq al-Gharb combat lines.

According to security sources a short while ago, the Army was taken by surprise when fire was opened on its positions in Suq al-Gharb. Army units in the area are returning the fire. In the meantime, the security committee is working to stop these clashes and prevent them from escalating.

Israeli Warplanes Fly Over Sidon, Camps

NC3009105488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Sep 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and the camps for 15 minutes at 1000 today. Sirens were sounded as a precaution against any aggression.

Amal Source on Threatened 'Flare-Up' in South

NC2909144088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] A responsible information source in the Amal Movement in the south has made the following statement:

Certain Palestinian groups yesterday cut off the coastal road, erected roadblocks, kidnapped some defenseless southern citizens on the coastal road, and exacerbated tension along the contact lines east of Sidon.

These Palestinian moves coincide with the escalation of Israeli attacks against our towns and villages and with the intensification of the plot against the unity and fate of our homeland.

The source called on the expanded national Islamic meeting which was held in Sidon to shoulder its national responsibilities and adopt the necessary measures to curb the tools of sedition and prevent the flare-up which is threatening the unity of the national and Palestinian stand.

The source urged key Sidon figures and leaders to put an end to such practices and prevent any acts of piracy and kidnappings along the coastal road.

Al-Shar' Meets Italy's Andreotti in New York

JN3009121088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Sep 88

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shar' met with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Anderotti in New York today. Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'ullah al-Fattal attended the meeting. During the meeting, discussion revolved around the recent developments in Lebanon and means of bolstering bilateral relations.

U.S. Stance on Mideast Settlement Attacked

PM3009095988 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 20 Sep 88 p 2

[Na'im Tahir article: "Enemies' Peace"]

[Text] Everyone, including enemies, can recognize the fruits of the Palestinian uprising, which is still continuing, showing no sign of weakening. In fact this has been recognized. But the enemies' recognition of what the brave uprising has achieved is different: The aim is to destroy the continuing Palestinian victories and achievements in the occupied territories. Within this context, there has been much talk in Washington and within the Zionist entity about a "political solution" to the Middle East problem. The day before yesterday Peres admitted his failure and that of the leadership of his entity and the Nazi army to suppress the uprising, calling for a "political solution" according to his known concept.

Earlier, the architect of the 17 May agreement, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, talked in detail about the "political solution" sought for the crisis. Despite the link between the two statements or, to be correct, proposals, the U.S. secretary of state's statement is of special importance: It comes after a series of failures involving "U.S. peace plans." It also comes after U.S. embarrassment about the condemnation of the barbaric Zionist repressive machine.

Shultz' statement brings nothing new. The only new thing about it is that it insists on handling the Middle East problem according to the same U.S. logic—the logic of arrogance and nationalism which pays no attention to the destiny of the peoples or their freedom, independence, or dignity. For instance, he considers that "true security results from the settlement of political differences," emphasizing that "direct talks are the essence of the negotiation process." Shultz reiterated that "all participants must renounce violence and terrorism." He concluded his detailed statement with the famous U.S. no: "No peace can be achieved by establishing an independent Palestinian state."

Anyone who read or heard Shultz' statement will confirm the U.S. secretary's ignorance of or disregard for the facts concerning the situation in the region, and indeed the naivety of the U.S. position regarding them—the position which the wars Israel waged against the Arabs states and the Zionist massacres already committed and those being committed by its criminals could not change. Thus any "political solution" based on this logic is stillborn. It seems that Shultz and others like him are still unconvinced that any solutions that disregard Arab dignity are doomed to fail.

Significance of Israeli 'Spy Satellite' Examined

PM2909153188 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 21 Sep 88 p 2

[Ilyas Khuri article: "Israeli Satellite Lie!!"]

[Text] The military spy satellite Israel launched the day before yesterday represents a dangerous link in strategic cooperation between the Zionist entity and the United States. In fact it signals the opening of a new chapter in military relations between them, in which Israel is classified as the prime and most important ally of the United States in the entire world.

It is impossible to accept the idea that the satellite was launched through Israel capabilities, resources, and technologies. Because the Zionist entity, which failed to manufacture the Lavi plane, will fail even further when it comes to implementing an advanced project such as the launch of a spy satellite capable of observing the Middle East region as a whole.

Regional and international developments prove this fact. At the regional level, the satellite reflects what we would term the supreme U.S. commitment to backing Israel militarily and providing it with whatever it needs to maintain its military superiority over the Arab states, especially in view of the dilemma it is going through as a result of the escalating uprising in the occupied territories as well as the growing international opposition to its occupation of the Arab territories and its aggressive policies in the region.

At the international level, the satellite is a U.S. attempt to compensate relatively for the agreement it concluded with the Soviet Union to dismantle medium-range missiles in Europe. The satellite falls within the framework of Israel's participation in the Star Wars program on the one hand and the experiments it carried out a few months ago on the so-called Jericho missile on the other—a missile which, without any argument, is American in terms of manufacture and objectives!

Despite this the main problem lies in the major threats posed by U.S.-Israeli military cooperation, which not only threatens the security and peace of the Middle East, but the peace and security of the entire world.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Says U.S. 'Violating' Geneva Accords

BK2909132288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] The Afghanistan president, Dr Najibullah, has said that his country wants good relations with all the neighboring countries, including Pakistan.

In an interview with AIR special correspondent, Inderjit Bahl, who recently visited Kabul, Dr Najibullah said the national reconciliation policy of his government is a step in this direction.

The Afghan president said the signing of the Geneva accords was seen as a hopeful takeoff toward peace and security in the region. He, however, regretted that Pakistan is creating obstacles and preventing the return of refugees which formed an important part of the accords.

Dr Najibullah also accused the United States of violating the Geneva accords by sending arms to rebels.

Foreign Ministry on Detained FRG Citizens

LD2909182688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Two FRG subjects who, together with the counterrevolutionary extremists illegally entered Republic of Afghanistan's territory and together with the extremist groups were engaged in espionage and subversive activities in Ghazni Province, were arrested recently by the country's Armed Forces during a mopping-up operation. They are now under investigation.

As to the hue and cry by Western media on this matter, claiming these two people were arrested by Afghanistan's security forces while they were involved in humanitarian assistance to the people, an Afghanistan, the Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman said the following:

There is no place and no law which allows foreign subjects and members of international welfare institutions to enter the territory of a sovereign country without permission and to engage in illegal and espionage activities there.

Undoubtedly contemporary international life has broadened reciprocal cooperation and links between countries and international organizations, however, these links and this reciprocal cooperation have always been carried out only within the framework of concluded agreements and protocols.

The Republic of Afghanistan, as an independent, nonaligned country with national sovereignty and territorial integrity, in following the principles of a policy of peaceful coexistence with all countries with different social systems, has never rejected assistance and cooperation which is based on reciprocal national interests.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has always assisted the activities of organizations and international personalities, including the International Red Cross, UN High Commission for Refugees, His Excellency Flex Ermacora, special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission, and His Excellency Sadrodin Aga Khan, organizer of UN humanitarian assistance, and has always helped advance their activities in both the country's capital and provinces.

However the government acts decisivley and lawfully against those who, by ignoring the national laws and in violation of all laws and general and accepted international norms, cross the borders of our country and aid warmongering extremist groups in their subversive and criminal activities under the guise of humanitarian assistance.

The fact is that individuals such as these two FRG subjects have no other objective than the continuation of war and bloodshed in the Republic of Afghanistan and the creation of obstacles to implementing the humane policy of national reconciliation. Otherwise the question arises of why these two people did not extend humanitarian assistance to the misery-stricken people of the imposed war through the International Red Cross and His Excellency Sadrodin Aga Khan, organizer of UN humanitarian assistance.

It is interesting to ask this question: If a subject of the Republic of Afghanistan enters FRG territory in an unlawful manner and without a visa for the purpose of extending humanitarian assistance, what will the reaction of that country's authorities be against this action?

It must be pointed out that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, on the basis of its humanitarian policy, has paved the way for a visit by the charge d'affaires and members of the FRG Embassy in Kabul, to see the two imprisoned FRG subjects.

Let those who ignore our country's national laws and who aggress against our country's national sovereignty and territorial integrity by trampling on international laws and accepted norms be hated and repulsed by our people and come under the lawful treatment of our country's security and judicial authorities.

Rebels Fire Rocket on Feyzabad 28 Sep; 1 Killed

LD2909175888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Sep

[Text] Yesterday at around 1200 extremist elements martyred a young man, Mohammad Zobayr, as a result of a rocket attack against Feyzabad city, the provincial capital of Badakhshan.

Two children were injured and were taken to the hospital by the security forces and are undergoing treatment.

Rebel 'Bands' 'Crushed' in Konar, Qandahar

LD2909182788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] A BAKHTAR military correspondent has reported that as a result of an Armed Forces operation yesterday three extremist warmongering bands were crushed in the Konar and Qandahar Provinces.

The report adds that at the Asmar and Shinkorak areas of Konar Province, 9 extremists were crushed and 15 were severely wounded as a result of yesterday's operation.

Also as a result of the blows by the Armed Forces to the extremists in Sarpuza and Arghandab regions, Qandahar Province, 7 warmongering people were crushed and 13 wounded. The report adds that dozens of enemy light and heavy weapons and several of their hideouts were destroyed.

Bangladesh

'Rightist Party' Leader 'Hacked to Death'

BK2909111388 Hong Kong AFP in English 0825 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Sept 29 (AFP)—A local leader of a rightist party was hacked to death in a western town amid reports of growing armed rivalries among Bangladesh's opposition political and student groups, party sources here said Thursday.

They said Mohammad Shahbazuddin, 40, secretary of Jamaat-i-Islami in Sirajganj, was fatally injured in an attack late Wednesday by rival political activists in the local party office.

The attackers, alleged to be militants of the left-wing Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD—National Socialist Party), ransacked the office before leaving.

Mr. Shahbazuddin, a school teacher and local correspondent of a Dhaka daily, was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead, Jamaat officials here said.

The acting chief of Jamaat, Abbas Ali Khan, in a statement condemned what he called "cowardly attacks" on party leaders and workers.

He said they were the result of political tension caused by provocative statements being made by politicians opposed to Jamaat ideologies. [passage omitted]

India

Soviet Defense Minister Meets Gandhi 29 Sep

BK3009051888 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] The Soviet defense minister, General Dimitriy Yazov, now on a visit to India, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed.

AFP: Soviet Defense Minister Cuts Visit Short

BK2909173088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1724 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 29 (AFP)—Soviet Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov cut short an Indian tour and flew home Thursday, officials said.

General Yazov, who arrived Monday on a five-day visit, was to return Friday, but left a day earlier to attend the Soviet Communist Party's crucial Central Committee plenum Friday, the officials said.

He was the second Soviet minister abruptly returning from tour abroad in the last two days.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was reported to have left the United Nations Wednesday.

Gen. Yazov called on Mr. Gandhi for some 30 minutes before his departure late Thursday. The officials described it as a "courtesy call."

Earlier in the day, he and his Indian counterpart Krishna Chandra Pant had another round of talks, lasting some 45 minutes.

Gen. Yazov, according to newspaper reports, had planned to discuss defence cooperation with India during the visit.

An official statement on the visit said Gen. Yazov had reviewed cooperation in the supply of defence equipment and in defence production in India during several rounds of talks with Mr. Pant and other officials here.

It said the two sides expressed satisfaction at the steady development of cooperation in the political, economic, scientific and other fields.

Gen. Yazov assured Mr. Pant that Moscow wanted to continue strengthening cooperation with India as it corresponded with the interests of both countries, the statement said.

Spokesman Reports on Gandhi-Ershad Talks 29 Sep
BK2909163388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] India and Bangladesh have agreed to set up a task force to study the Ganges and the Brahmaputra waters jointly for flood management and water flow from them.

The task force would look at both short-term and long-term measures and consult the existing studies in the problem. It will submit its report in 6 months time. The secretary-level task force would comprise experts from both the countries.

This has been stated in a joint communique issued at the end of 6-hour long talks between the delegations of India and Bangladesh in New Delhi today headed by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and President Ershad. The two leaders also met separately without aides for about 30 minutes.

Briefing newsmen about the outcome of the talks, an official spokesman said that the two sides expressed their resolve to solve the problem bilaterally and jointly. They agreed that the Indian proposal of 1978 would form the basis of the study by the task force, which outlined comprehensive measures on flood control, power generation, and to meet shortages of water during the lean season in the two countries.

The 1978 proposal proposes construction of three dams in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Mizoram-Manipur border. It also envisages construction of a link canal which will start from (Jogigopai) in Assam, pass through Bangladesh, and join the Ganges at a point just above the Farakka Barrage. Benefits which will accrue to India and Bangladesh on this account include irrigation potential of 8 million hectares and power generation of 8,000 megawatts. It will also help in lowering the peak flood level in Bangladesh by 1 or 2 meters.

The proposal is based on the fact that there is more water in Brahmaputra-Meghna than in the Ganges system. It is 12 times per unit of cultivable area and 8.5 times per unit of population more in Brahmaputra-Meghna that the Ganges system. The excess water will be brought to the Ganges system through the link canal for better utilization.

The spokesman said that the 324-kilometer long canal will carry 100,000 cusecs of water and it will displace about 8,000 hectares of land in Bangladesh. Another proposal put forward by Bangladesh envisages construction of a short canal which will be 125 kilometers in length and 150 meters in width. It will displace only about 38 kilometers of land in Bangladesh.

The spokesman pointed out that Bangladesh studied the 1978 Indian proposal for 5 years, but told India in 1983 that it is not acceptable.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said the meeting, arranged at the request of President Ershad, was held in a cooperative and cordial atmosphere.

Answering another question, he said the Bangladesh side agreed that floods in Bangladesh are because of the excess water in the Brahmaputra-Meghna system. He said no alternate proposal was put up by Bangladesh side. About the 1978 proposal, he said it was prepared after a lot of hard work and studies and about 7 crore rupees was spent in formulating the scheme.

The Bangladesh delegation at the talks included its former minister, education minister, irrigation secretary and senior officials. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was assisted among others by Mr Shiv Shankar, Mr Natwar Singh, and high officials including the foreign secretary, secretary for water resources, and home secretary.

King, Queen of Nepal Arrive in Delhi 29 Sep
BK2909160888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] King Birendra of Nepal, accompanied by Queen Aishwarya, arrived in New Delhi this evening. The king is on a visit to all SAARC member countries in his capacity as the chairman of the organization.

Tripura Government Invokes 1980 Security Act
BK3009040888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Sep 88

[Text] The Tripura government has decided to invoke the Tripura Security Act 1980 in the state, which was kept in abeyance by the left front government.

In an interview with AIR's Agartala correspondent yesterday evening, the state home minister, Mr Saniranjan Barman, said that due to the growing antisocial activities it has now become necessary to invoke this act.

The act provides for the arrest and detention of any person for a period of 6 months or externment [as heard] for the same period. Mr Barman assured the act will not be used for any political purpose.

Iran

Velayati Meets Soviet, PRC Foreign Ministers
LD2909182388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Today in New York Foreign Minister Velayati met with the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union, China, and Italy; the deputy foreign minister of Japan; and the minister of state in charge of foreign affairs of Oman. We start this hour's newscast with a report which has been sent by our correspondent about these meetings:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister, early this morning met with Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister. In this meeting, which was held a few hours before the Soviet foreign minister left the premises of the United Nations Organization for Moscow, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and their strengthening, cooperation between the two countries regarding regional issues, and the issues concerning Afghanistan.

Then the foreign minister met with Giulio Andreotti, Italy's foreign minister; Qian Qichen, China's foreign minister; Takakazu Kuriyama, Japan's deputy foreign minister; and Yusuf ibn al-Alawi, Oman's minister of state in charge of foreign affairs. In all these meetings, in addition to exchanging views on bilateral relations, the two sides discussed international issues, especially the Iran-Iraq war, and talked about the latest developments following the official acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In these meetings the foreign minister informed the other side about the Iraqi regime's attempts to obstruct peace and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598. The foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and China, as two permanent members of the Security Council, the foreign ministers of Italy and Japan [as heard], as current members of the Security Council, as well as Oman's minister of state in charge of foreign affairs emphasized the need to support the UN secretary general in the speedy implementation of Resolution 598.

The Chinese foreign minister talked to our foreign minister about the profound and historical relations existing between the two countries, his forthcoming visit to Tehran, and the recent session of the two countries' joint economic committee. Oman's minister of state in charge of foreign affairs also talked about regional cooperation and the continuation of the contacts of the Persian Gulf littoral states with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The UN General assembly is held this year under conditions when most of the speakers have expressed their deep anxiety about the use of chemical weapons by Iraq and the condemnation of any use of these inhuman weapons. In addition to the U.S. President, today the French president will also express his position regarding this matter.

Last night, Geoffrey Howe, the British foreign secretary, in a speech addressed to the 43d session of the UN General Assembly, called for an international ban of the Iraqi use of chemical weapons and joined the ranks of countries which are increasingly exerting pressure on Iraq for this crime and criticizing her. Geoffrey Howe strongly criticized Iraq's refusal to cooperate with the UN about the dispatch of an expert research team to that country.

[Signing off] Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, London. [end recording]

Musavi: BBC Tries To Create 'Discord'

LD3009110588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 88

[Text] Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, in an interview with an IRNA correspondent today, denied reports which the state radio of England broadcast on the recent letter of resignation by the prime minister.

Calling them fabrications, he said: The text of the recent letter of resignation is the same as that which was formally published in the newspapers and the mass media.

According to the same report, the prime minister of our country said:

The state-controlled radio, BBC, has always been intent on making accusations against the regime of the Islamic Republic, such as terrorism, to distort the features of this popular regime. And on the other hand, since the beginning of the victory of the revolution it has tried to create divisions and discord among the responsible authorities of the Islamic Republic.

Friday Sermons on Resolution 598, Education

LD3009125588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 88

[Text] We begin our news reports section with the sermons from Tehran's Friday prayers which were delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani.

The temporary Friday imam of Tehran referred in his Friday prayers sermons to the acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598 by the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq's incessant obstruction of the implementation of the articles of this resolution, such as that regime's refusal to withdraw its forces to the international borders.

He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has accepted Resolution 598 in earnest, categorically and unconditionally, and is serious and insistent on the implementation of all the articles of the resolution.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Emami-Kashani then referred to the issue of the crisis in Lebanon and by expounding on the conspiracies of global arrogance in imposing partition on Lebanon.

He stressed: It is the duty of the world's Muslim population and the Islamic countries to stop the enemies of Islam from thus playing with the fate of the Lebanese nation, through their Islamic understanding and devotion and self-sacrifice, and not to let them impose partition in this Islamic country. The only factor that can eliminate the conspiracies of global arrogance against the islamic people of Lebanon is the awareness of the Islamic ummah and the Muslims' devotion and self-sacrifice in the face of the planned conspiracies of the enemies of Islam.

The Friday imam of Tehran continued his sermon by remarking on the issue of reform in education and training. He said: The first step in the flourishing and export of the Islamic revoution is that we should set examples as regards thinking and intellectual and moral issues. If we want our schools to be at a high intellectual and moral level, if we want to preserve our independence and not to depend on others and to fulfill our needs, we should first provide all the necessary facilities for the country's education and training. This goal can be achieved through being realistic.

For this reason despite the postwar problems we should provide the necessary budget for education and training and for implementing the higher education programs. Just as we attach importance to the construction of mosques, so we should regard the construction of schools as important, since the importance of schools is no less than that of mosques. In view of this, we should rush to the aid of the government and not refrain from making efforts and giving aid, because as a result of the postwar problems, the problems and shortages will not be removed until we help and aid the government as regards the financial issues.

The speaker referred to the characteristics and qualities which the pupil, teacher, lecturer, and student should posses. He said: The method of education and training should be such that the pupils, teachers, lecturers, and students should consider the school and the university as their home, and all educational provisions and requirements at schools and universities should be provided. In this way we should take advantage of the teachers and the expert lecturers and increase the educational level at schools and universities. Not by chanting of slogans but by taking the capabilities into consideration and by taking advantage of all the facilities based on Islamic principles will we be able to enrich the pupils and the students with knowledge. This issue is probably the biggest step in promoting and extending the revolution.

In conclusion Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani remarked on Police Day and paid tribute to the commendable services of the Islamic Republic of Irans's police.

2 Kuwaiti Diplomats Arrive To Reopen Embassy

LD2909183588 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1726 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, Sept 29 (TANJUG)—Two Kuwaiti diplomats arrived in Tehran today to reopen the Embassy of Kuwait in Iran, it is learned here.

According to Arab diplomats, Kuwait in this way wants to re-establish a balance in relations with Iran and Iraq, at war over the past eight years.

During the war, Kuwait fully supported Iraq, with which it previously had no strong ties, and accused Iran of mining Kuwaiti shipping lanes, bombing and sinking its tankers in the Gulf and bombing its oil installations.

Kuwait also accused the Tehran Government of standing behind bombing attacks by pro-Iranian Muslim fundamentalists on Kuwaiti, American and French targets in Kuwait since 1983.

Diplomatic Ties To Be Restored With Cyprus

LD2909172188 Tehran IRNA in English 1441 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Cyprus will shortly resume diplomatic relations, the Foreign Ministry announced here today.

It said the two countries in a joint communique have agreed on resumption of activities at the level of an Iranian charge d'affairies in Nicosia and a Cypriot accredited ambassador in Tehran.

Congressional Sanctions Against Iraq Examined

NC2909191788 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1640 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Recently the U.S. Congress unanimously approved a bill imposing economic sanctions on Iraq. It has been stated that this bill was approved in response to Iraq's use of chemical weapons against the Iraqi Kurds. The House of Representatives bill envisages lighter punishment of the Baghdad regime than the more extensive sanctions urged by the Senate.

Political observers believe this stems from the fact that the Reagan administration has clarified it does not want enmity with Iraq over its use of chemical weapons but wants to demonstrate some kind of negative reaction because of international and domestic pressures. Thus, the U.S. Administration has tried to review its previous, relatively strong policy and adopt a much softer stand toward the Iraqi regime. In this regard, U.S. officials have repeatedly stated they do not want to upset their relations with Iraq and that they will strive to preserve and expand bilateral ties.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Administration has tried to portray its reaction to Iraq's use of these weapons as general opposition to the principle of the use of chemical weaponry. This stand was reflected in Reagan's spech to the UN General Assembly. Actually, instead of trying to pressure the Iraqi regime, he tried more to stress the principle involved in the use of chemical weapons and the violation of the 1925 Geneva Convention. Reagan proposed that an international conference be held to strengthen this convention.

In his speech to the UN General Assembly, the Soviet foreign minister also supported this conference. Even though this conference can reemphasize the ban on chemical weapons, it should be noted that without adopting strong measures against regimes that have repeatedly used chemical weapons and perpetrated horrific crimes, a strong guarantee that chemical weapons will be permanently banned cannot be achieved.

Thus, it is clear now that the policy of the superpowers, and especially of the U.S. Administration, is not to seriously and truly confront the use of the chemical weapons. The main goal of these governments is to respond, in one way or another, to domestic and international expectations. Until now, and while the war was still continuing, the superpowers took no positive step against the Iraqi regime, because its use of chemical weaponry was so important. They tolerated international and domestic pressures. However, it appears that with the ending of the imposed war they see no need to accept or tolerate these pressures. Thus, they are trying—with not very serious or decisive reactions—to ease the burden of these pressures. This is the true scenario in the United States.

The bill approved by the U.S. Congress cannot be considered a step showing enmity toward the Iraqi regime nor can it be considered a step in support of Muslim and oppressed Iraqi Kurds. These steps are aimed, more than anything else, at reducing domestic and foreign pressures. Despite the fact the Reagan administration has the right to veto the bill and can stop sanctions against Iraq, it seems that on the eve of the U.S. presidential elections, with the commencement of the campaign between the Republicans and the Democrats, the Reagan administration will accede to these sanctions to strengthen the Republicans' position and win over U.S. public opinion.

However, it should also be noted that even if the sanctions proposed by Congress, which entail ending the export of arms and advanced technology to Iraq, are approved and enforced, this will not change the situation, because the United States has not officially sold arms to Iraq, nor has it sent advanced technology to Iraq until now.

At any rate, if these sanctions are implemented they will be proof of an agreement between the U.S. Administration and Congress on a mild confrontation with the Iraqi regime and cannot in any way prevent this regime's perpetrating further crimes.

105 MM Howitzer Barrel 'Successfully Tested'

LD2909205188 Tehran IRNA in English 1441 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Esfahan, Sept. 29, IRNA—The first barrel for 105 MM howitzers manufactured by the defence industries was successfully tested here today in the presence of Defence Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali.

Speaking at the ceremony Jalali said the manufacture of advanced howitzer barrels requires sophisticated technology, which he said is the first step Iran has taken towards the manufacture of howitzers itself.

Noting that arms manufacture at the defence industries has increased three-fold, Jalali said Iranian specialists have so far manufactured two types of missiles of the 'Shahin generation' and two other types of the 'Oqab generation'.

The first Iranian-made surface-to surface missile has already seen service at war fronts, he added.

'Strict Punishment' Prescribed for Draft Dodgers

LD2909114388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] The deputy for manpower affairs of the General Command Headquarters described in detail the law pertaining to the punishment of absentees and deserters from national conscription.

In an interview with our correspondent, he said: Beginning 10 October, strict punishment is envisaged for all absentees and deserters who do not come forward. If these individuals do not wish to be included in the new punishment schemes, they must register at national conscription centers and obtain their draft cards before 10 October. This scheme also applies to those individuals who have obtained exemption cards or discharge papers through illegal channels.

He added that certain punishments have been considered for all employers, in the public or the private sector, who employ conscripts outside of legal procedures. These include fines of up to 1 million tomans, 74 lashes, losing the right to do business, and deprivation of government assistance.

In conclusion, the deputy for manpower affairs of the General Command Headquarters asked the people and all official organizations to help create an atmosphere in which no one will be able to dodge national service.